

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action rejects claim 1 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over FLAHERTY 5,975,747. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

At the outset, applicant notes that each of claims 2-4, which depend from claim 1, is indicated by the Official Action as being allowable.

The Official Action identifies the elements of the FLAHERTY device that are considered to meet the recitations of rejected claim 1. Among the features of the present invention that the Official Action admits are neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by FLAHERTY is the incorporation of a feed rate shifting mechanism into the feeding means under the control of the controlling means, as recited in original claim 2.

The Official Action identifies the fluid source 107 of FLAHERTY as a feeding means. However, absent from the FLAHERTY reference is any indication that a feed rate associated with such fluid source is in any way controllable. Furthermore, as now recited in claim 1 in its amended form, such flow rate is controlled by the controlling means. As already recited in claim 1, the controlling means is also operable to generating the signal

for working the stopping means when the defined conditions are met.

Accordingly, the incorporation of these features of original, allowable claim 2 into claim 1 should place claim 1, together with the claims that depend therefrom, into condition for immediate allowance.

In light of such amendment to claim 1, the explicit statement of allowability of claims 2-4, and the allowance of claims 5-11, the present application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

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overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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